

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

January 2022
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 mile south of State Road 312
uufsacontact@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Sunday services are presented in-person and online at 10:00 a.m.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday children’s program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.



From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

As this New Year begins, I invite you to enter it with hope, bolstered by an outrageous, boundless sense of possibility. I encourage you to let this annual rite infuse you with the energy of new beginnings. Why not make this time of turning a pivotal time, a time to ignite our potential and the creativity that lies dormant? Let's listen deeply to yet inchoate voices, summoning the care and nurturance needed to grow new things.

Realizing such aspirations may seem a daunting task. The gap between an ideal world and the challenges of reality may be a jarring one. It's here I would remind you that you are not alone, that you are part of a community—the UUFSA—where it is our mission to be dynamic and loving, and to nurture one another's minds, spirits, and ethical actions.

Let these be words of empowerment, reminding us that we walk our individual paths in fellowship. And, that as we grow in trust, we become more able to share our joys and sorrows with one another. Contrary to such cultural myths as that of self-sufficiency, our interdependence is our strength. Rather than undermining our individuality, connectedness strengthens our inbuilt sense of agency; and, expressing it through our unique talents and contributions, we find the treasures of appreciation and affirmation.

From my own search for truth and meaning, I'd like to share an amazing discovery: joy is the fruit of service—to UU Principles and to this particular community. By listening to others, stepping forward to share, I feel trust developing both in myself and in my relationships. Perhaps this is the magic of transformation! By whatever name, it's your support that has helped grow my confidence and kindle my passion to bring UU values to the larger community.

In closing, I return to this time of hope and its potential for new beginnings. Please consider enacting your agency, boldly and outrageously, by helping me revive the UUFSA Social Justice Committee. Together, let's encourage each other in this work to improve our world, to stay the course, ever guided by the spiritual and moral compass of Unitarian Universalist Principles!

In the warmth of fellowship,

Gina Jonas
UUFSA President
904-679-4610
gina.jonas@gmail.com



Sunday Programs

Sunday services are presented in-person in the Fellowship and online.
To join online, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m. For safety, we are asking everyone present in person at the live service to be vaccinated and wear a mask.

A Little Help from Your Friends



For any reason, if you need help getting from the parking lot to the Sanctuary and back again, we now have a wheelchair on hand to assist you. Just ask anyone in the parking lot to let the Greeters know that you need assistance, and someone will come to your car with the wheelchair. Please try to arrive 15 minutes early so we have time to get you situated. Note that you must be able to transfer into and out of the wheelchair on your own. We hope this service furthers our aim to be an inclusive, welcoming community.

Sunday Announcements

If you have a brief, UUFSA-related announcement you would like the Service Leader to relay to the fellowship at the beginning of our Sunday services, please submit it by email to the Service Leader no later than 24 hours before the Sunday service. Please send it directly to the Service Leader for the specific date you request. Due to time constraints, and the many diverse interests of the members of this fellowship, only UUFSA events will be announced.

January 1: No service

January 8: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

January 15: Rachel Cross, rachelcrossart@gmail.com

January 22: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

January 29: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

Program Team Meeting

20 minutes after the Sunday service on January 8th

The UUFSA Program Team will be changing its meeting time and location. We will meet live at the Fellowship about 20 minutes after the Sunday service on January 8th. All are invited to participate and share your thoughts and suggestions.

Sunday, January 1
No Service will be held.



Sunday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.
“Who Am I to Play God? The Daily Struggle to
Protect Humans and the Environment”

Trish Becker

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Chris McDermott



Trish Becker is a wife, mother, cat lady, and Commissioner at the Anastasia Mosquito Control District. You may know her from the advocacy work she has done as a founder of the St. Augustine Women's March and the Women's March Alliance of North Florida. Trish has helped organize actions for many issues. She was a school shooting survivor in 1994, and that moment has been cemented in her work and lets her tackle more difficult issues like mental health. Her advocacy in environmental issues fueled her run for office. Trish decided she wanted to be a part of the solution, and be a voice for all people. Over the past 4 years as a Commissioner, Trish has learned so much about how public health, safety, environmental, religious, and social issues affect the "interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part."

Sunday, January 15, 10:00 a.m.

**"King's Other Dream:
Ending Economic Injustice"**

Dr. Jeffrey Nall

Service Leader: Rachel Cross

Music: Alex Richman

"Listen and Talk with Heart"

This I Believe: Chris McDermott

Food Collection and Cash Plate Donation to the Food Pantry



Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. He hosts a Substack newsletter, "Humanities in Revolt," which can be found at JeffreyNall.substack.com

Sunday, January 22, 10:00 a.m.

"Henry David Thoreau"

**Cal Marshall, Robin Mahonen,
Don Brandes and Chuck Chambers**

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Green Minute: Jeffrey Sills

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862) was a Unitarian, naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher. A leading transcendentalist, he is best known for his book *Walden*, a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay "Civil Disobedience," an argument for disobedience to an unjust state.

Thoreau was a lifelong abolitionist, delivering lectures that attacked the fugitive slave law while praising the writings of Wendell Phillips and defending the abolitionist John Brown. Thoreau's philosophy of civil disobedience later influenced the political thoughts and actions of such notable figures as Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Cal, Chuck, Robin, and Don, members of the UUFSA congregation, will present an excerpt that from the play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee.

Sunday, January 29, 10:00 a.m.

“The Conscience of Democracy”

Dr. Mark Yount

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner



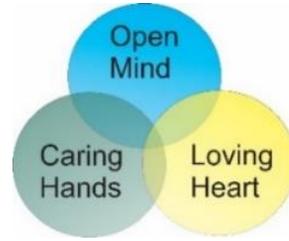
There is a contradiction in our Fifth UU Principle. It is the “right of conscience” to insist on its truth no matter how unpopular. But when we affirm “use of the democratic process,” we agree to submit to majority rule even when we are the outvoted minority. We will explore how this tension could prove productive and offer an inspiring perspective in our turbulent times. Our UU tradition has bravely trumpeted conscience and plied our movement to the arc of justice. Could democracy now be calling us to reach out to the very neighbors with whom we conscientiously disagree? How can we do that and still heed the conscience of democracy: the “self-evident” truths by which a revolutionary nation proclaimed its birth?

Dr. Mark Yount has degrees in philosophy, including a B.A. from William and Mary, M.A. from Villanova, and PhD from University of Colorado at Boulder. Mark taught Philosophy full time for 12 years at Trinity College in Hartford, St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, and at Jacksonville University. He then applied his Psychology minor to a second career in behavioral health, serving over a decade as QI Director and Corporate Compliance Officer for Gateway and Stewart-Marchman, before joining Mental Health America to assist unhoused mental health clients apply for SSDI. In his 24 years as a UU, Mark has given well over a hundred sermons at Buckman Bridge UU in Jacksonville, All Souls UU in Palatka, and here with us in St. Augustine. He has worked for over a decade to shape his best sermons into a book that blends philosophy, psychology and spirituality. Long titled toward *Wisdom on the Way*, his current subtitle is “Joining Philosophy, Psychology and Spirituality to See Ourselves Whole through the Worldview Wars.”



Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



The highlight of this past month was the Fall Festival, which was organized by our young people with the help of Jindy Gelow and parents. It was a huge success. The entertainment, including skits, stories and musical selections, were developed entirely by our young people. They also raffled living Thanksgiving center pieces they created in collaboration with Cal Marshall and crafts to benefit S.A.F.E. a no-kill animal shelter. With your help, our *Enchanting Activists* raised \$120 and collected supplies for S.A.F.E.



We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. In the meantime, we wish all our families all good things in the coming year.

For more information about the UUFSA's Program for Children and Youth, contact Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com) or Jindy Gelow (Jindyms@yahoo.com).

UUFSA Adult Learning 23

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sessions are in person at the Fellowship only, not online.

Season's Greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2023.
We are ready to move on from Joseph Campbell's the Power of Myth and begin with **Myth in Human History** with Professor Grant Voht

Introduction

The universality and evolution of myths in the history of the human race and place of myths in modern society will be the primary focus of our attention.

“Alligators in the Sewers” is an urban myth.

Can you think of other examples of urban myths? What kind of truth do they contain? If you are to write your own creation myth—or to look for one that satisfies your need for explanation – what questions would you consider crucial? What items in your view need to be explained in any adequate account of how things came to be?

January 5.....	Myth and Meaning
	The Continuing Importance of Myth
January 19.....	Emergence and World—Parent Creation Myths
	Cosmic Egg and Ex Nihilo Creation Myths
February 2.....	Female Heroes—Demeter and Hester Prynne
	Female Heroes—Psyche and Beauty
February 16.....	Creation Myths
	Hebrew Creation Myths
March 2.....	Greek and Norse Pantheons
March 16.....	The Goddess—Inanna and Dumuzi
	The Goddess---Isis and Osiris
April 6.....	The Tricksters in Mythology
	Tricksters from around the world
April 20.....	Shamans and Vegetation Gods
	Sky Gods and Earth Goddesses
May 4.....	Places of Myths---Rocks and Lakes
	Places of Myths--- Mountains
	Places of Myths---Sacred Trees
May 18.....	Myths of Cosmic Destruction
June 1.....	Mesopotamian and Hebrew Flood Myths
	Other Flood Myths

We welcome all members and UU friends.
Please come and join us in exploring this topic in detail.

Jocelyn Breakwell, Series Coordinator
Richard Lahey and Surindar Paracer

Sunday Coffee Hour 2023

Rosi Angeli, UUFSA Hospitality Coordinator

New Year, new beginning! If you're looking for a good resolution, how about volunteering to co-host a UUFSA Sunday coffee hour? I've found that hosting lets me enjoy this popular weekly get-together more than just attending. It's a good opportunity to greet new members, interact with our Fellowship's children, and reconnect with others.

Coffee hour is held outdoors, weather permitting. On bad weather days, we'll be downstairs with wide open doors!

As a coffee co-host, you

- Make coffee in large percolator.
- Boil water for tea.
- Bring cookies, fruit and half & half.
- Arrange cups, napkins, cookies and beverages on serving table.

After coffee hour:

- Rinse out percolator.
- Wash cups (dishwasher available).
- Wipe table tops.
- Put trash/recycling into outdoor cans ready for Monday pickup.
- Turn off all the lights in the building.
- Check and lock front and back doors.



To volunteer to co-host coffee hour, just contact me. Talk to me on Sunday or call/text 904-315-4284.

Dining With Dignity

Dining with Dignity is our once-a-month opportunity to feed the homeless downtown. A menu is sent out two weeks in advance, listing the items we need. We set up between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month and serve at 6:00 p.m. If interested in participating, please contact Maureen Herth at jminherth@aol.com.



Motion is Lotion Thursdays at 10:45 a.m.

"Motion is Lotion" sessions of Active Isolated Assisted Stretch will continue in January. Please call or text Priscilla 904 347-7497 for questions or concerns.

Care Connection

Our Care Connection group provides short-term, non-medical support for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. With the help of the UUFSA Congregation, the Care Connection:

- Makes hospital or home visits
- Provides wellness-check phone calls or calls just to converse
- Runs errands
- Provides rides to appointments and church functions
- Delivers meals during times of adversity
- Offers financial assistance to members in need (all information is confidential)



We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. Contact one of our members listed below if you are in need of assistance or would like to join the Care Connection Team. Phone numbers are available in the Membership Directory. We accept and appreciate donations.

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair Maureen Herth, Co-Chair
Claudia Atkins Anne Wilke Cynthia McAuliffe Pat Hall



Great Decisions January 16, 6:00 p.m.

Great Decisions is a monthly seminar on topics set by the Foreign Policy Association nationwide but presented locally. If you would like to participate, contact Chuck Chambers, JohnChuck1@yahoo.com. He can provide a copy of the article to be discussed and the Zoom login.

St. Johns Food Pantry (AKA St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries Inc.)



We have now started another year volunteering at the St. John's Ecumenical Food Pantry. Your generosity in donations and volunteer hours during the past year have meant so much to the hungry in our community. Thanks, everyone!

Our new leaders for the 2023 year are Mary Kellough and Dee Esser. They have been faithful in giving of their time and efforts to keep the food pantry running smoothly on Fridays. We still have plenty of volunteer opportunities at the pantry and would appreciate your participation. Volunteering allows you to share our work, know our team members, and get to know our clients who are most grateful for our assistance. For more information, contact Mary Kellough at 904-217-9837 or lkellough@comcast.net.

To make a cash donation to the food pantry, please bring or mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080, or go to our website at UUFSA.org.

Thank you for this opportunity for service.

UUFSA January Calendar



- 1 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 5 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 6 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 8 – Program Team 20 minutes after service
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 12 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 16 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 19 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 19 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 15 – Collection plate to Food Pantry
- 20 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for January Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 26 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



On the Lighter Side . . .

Submit a short joke/piece of entertaining humor you'd like to share for consideration. Submit to Michael Read at mickread@gmail.com.

Michael would like to thank members who have contributed to this column. He has received highly appreciative responses in person and by email. Since contributors remain anonymous, don't be shy to send Michael a joke or two!

It's that time again: Your New Year's Resolution! To save the effort of choosing a new one, I'm making the same resolution I broke last year!

You know what they say: Every saint has a past; every sinner has a future.

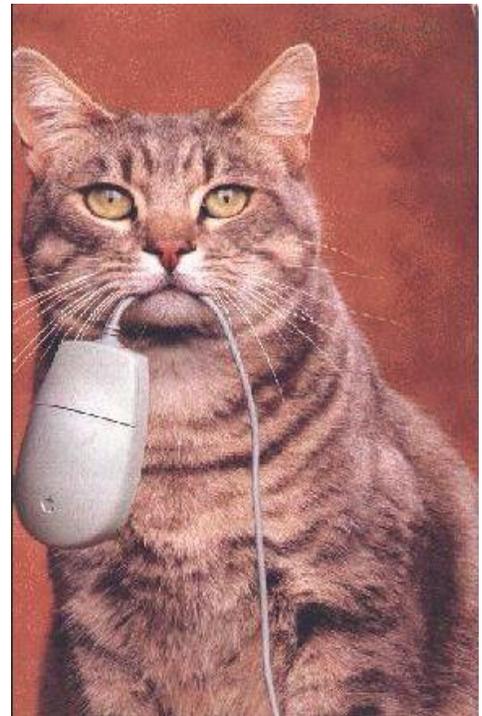
The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about at all.

I sued the airline for losing my luggage, but I lost my case.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

I used to be indecisive; now I'm not so sure.

Sleeping comes so naturally to me. I could do it with my eyes closed.



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson went on a camping trip. After sharing a good meal and a bottle of Petrie wine, they retire to their tent for the night. At about 3 AM, Holmes nudges Watson and asks, 'Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?' Watson said, 'I see millions of stars.' Holmes asks, 'And, what does that tell you?' Watson replies, 'Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and we are small and insignificant. Horologically, it tells me that it's about 3 AM. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Holmes?' Holmes retorts, 'Someone stole our tent.'

Beyond Our Congregation



The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical Place and Experience

- [Youth CONferences](#) - February 17-19 for Elementary grades 3-5, March 3-5 for Intermediate grades 6-8, March 17-19 for Senior High grades 9-12. A Youth CONference is a gathering of UU youth and advisors from congregations all over the southeast.
- [Music Week](#) – April 23-28 2023. Surround yourself with music and enjoy opportunities for music appreciation, concerts, group and individual participation and instruction in songwriting, guitar, voice, ukulele and more.
“Music Week has been transformative. When I came here, I lacked courage to really try to pursue music. In my first songwriting class here, I wasn’t finishing sentences. But, in five days here, I wrote two songs. There is something about this place – magical.” ~Renee E.
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

There’s still time to make an end-of-year gift to The Mountain! Click here for details:

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/giving>

For more information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center:

themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

General Assembly

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events.

Registration is available at [UUA.org/GA](https://uua.org/GA). Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1.

For more information contact generalassembly@uua.org.

Pittsburg

